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Aucsmith et al.

[11] Patent Number: **5,712,914**[45] Date of Patent: **Jan. 27, 1998**[54] **DIGITAL CERTIFICATES CONTAINING MULTIMEDIA DATA EXTENSIONS**[75] Inventors: **David W. Aucsmith; George Cox**, both of Portland; **Paul E. Onnen**, Beaverton, all of Oreg.[73] Assignee: **Intel Corporation**, Santa Clara, Calif.[21] Appl. No.: **536,271**[22] Filed: **Sep. 29, 1995**[51] Int. Cl.⁶ **H04L 9/30**[52] U.S. Cl. **380/30**[58] Field of Search **380/30**[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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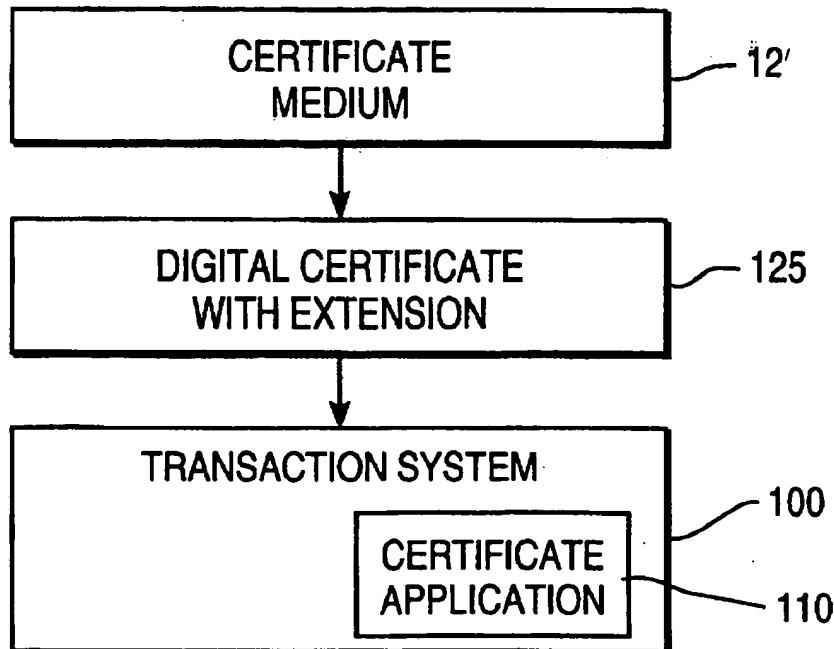
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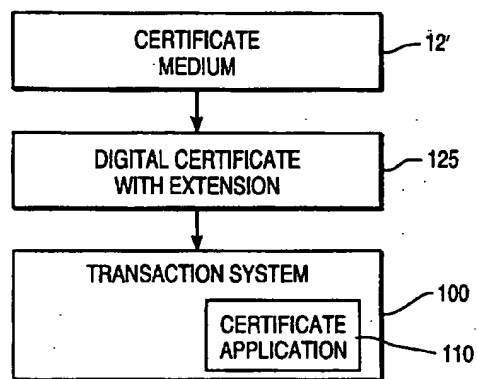
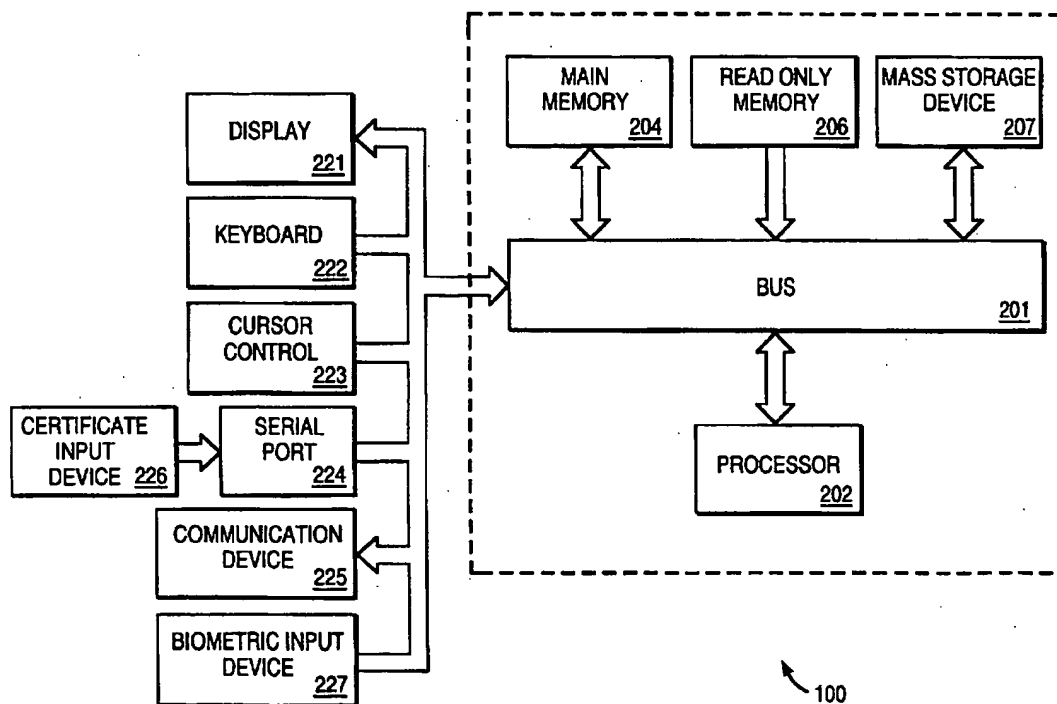
Primary Examiner—Salvatore Cangialosi*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman

[57]

ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus of communicating information comprising providing a datum which includes a digital certificate containing data. The digital certificate including an extension which includes: a first identifier which specifies a major classification of the data; a second identifier which specifies a minor classification of the data; and data in a format according to the major classification and the minor classification, the data indicating an owner of the datum and a use for which the datum is intended. The certificate allows authentication of the certificate itself and the data contained therein, and the data contained in the certificate can include information allowing verification of the identity of the holder of the certificate.

47 Claims, 8 Drawing Sheets

**FIG. 1****FIG. 2**

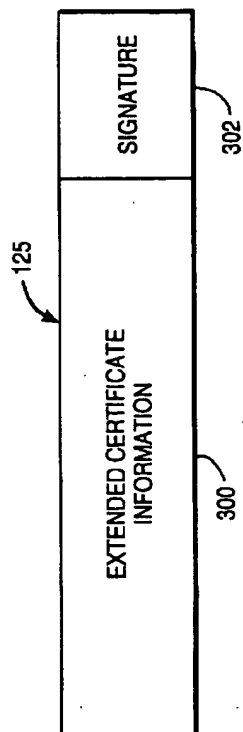


FIG. 3

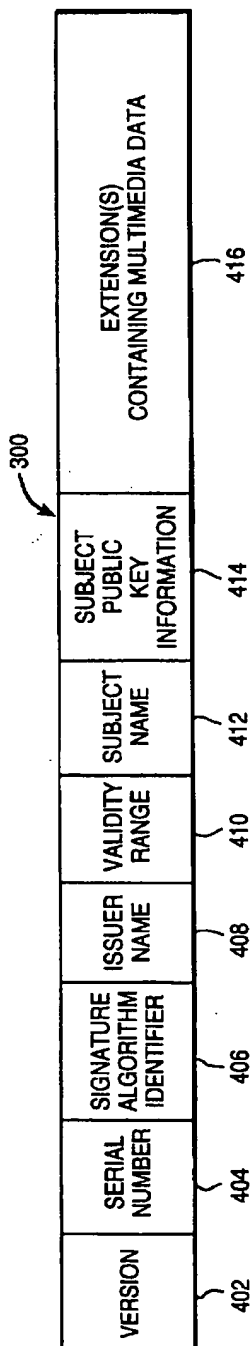


FIG. 4

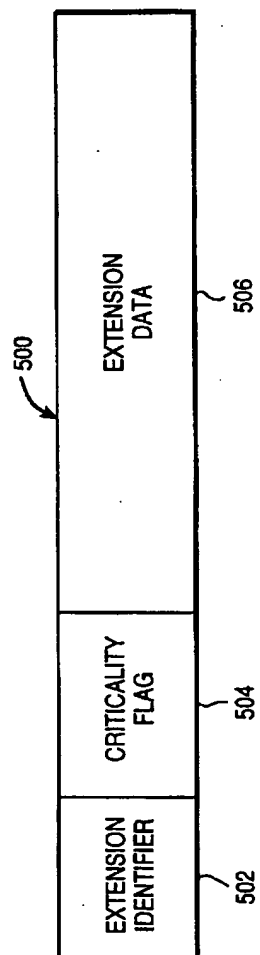


FIG. 5

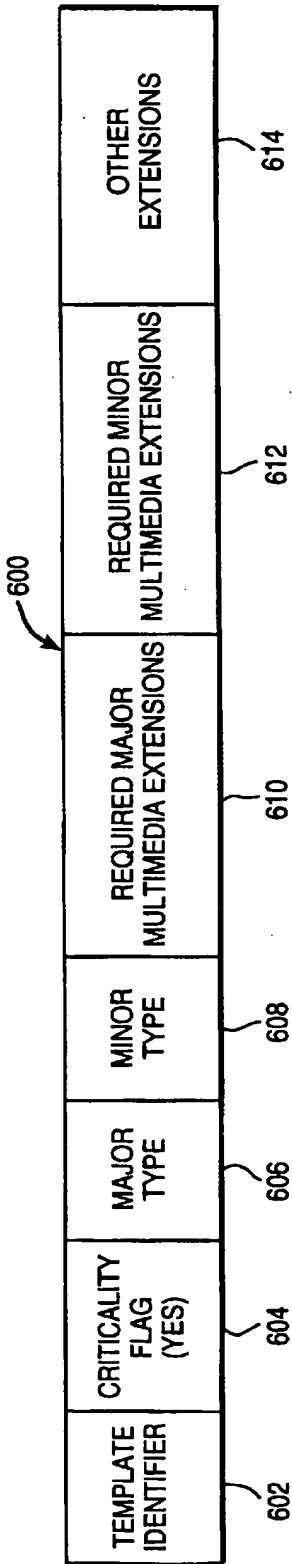


FIG. 6

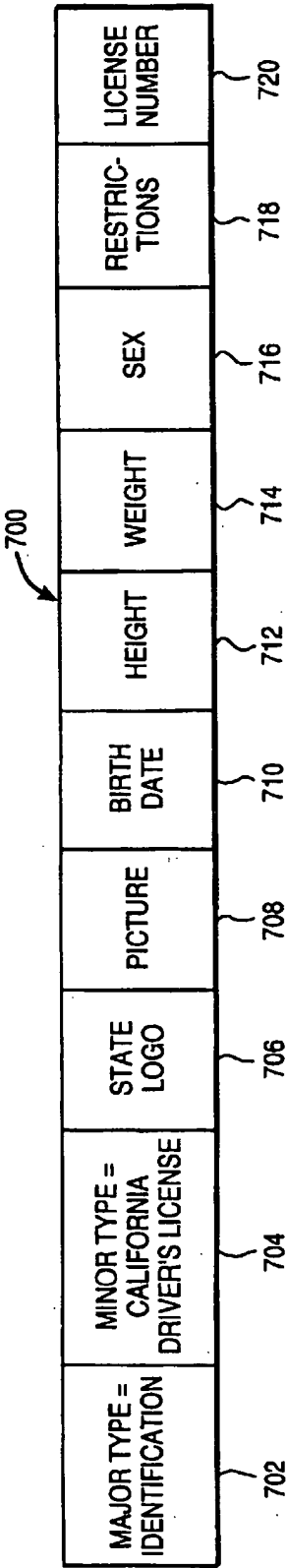


FIG. 7

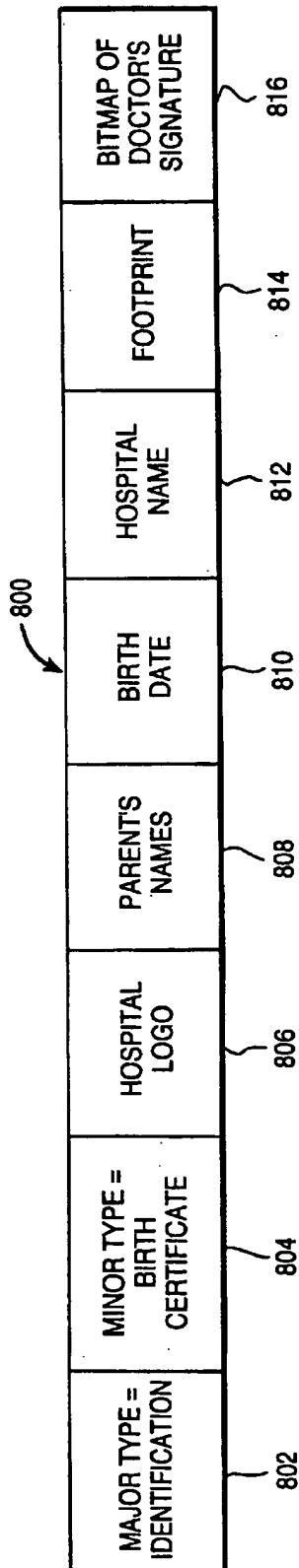


FIG. 8

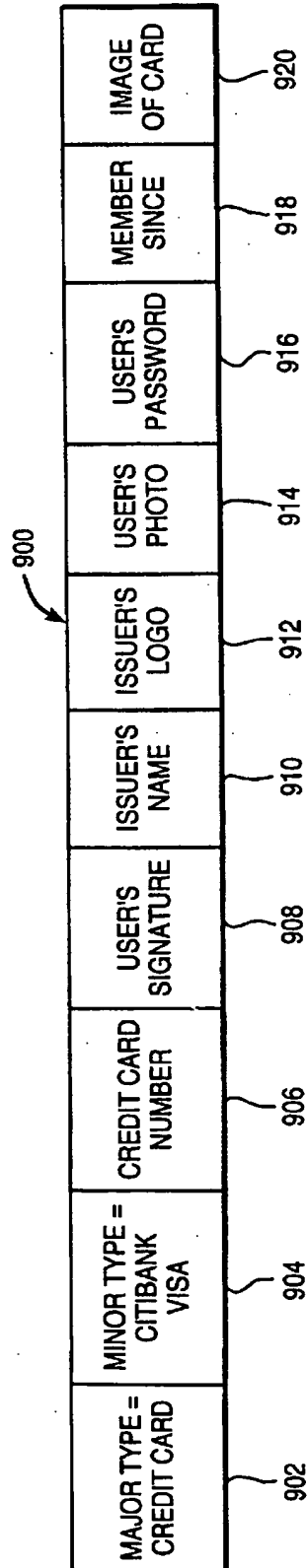
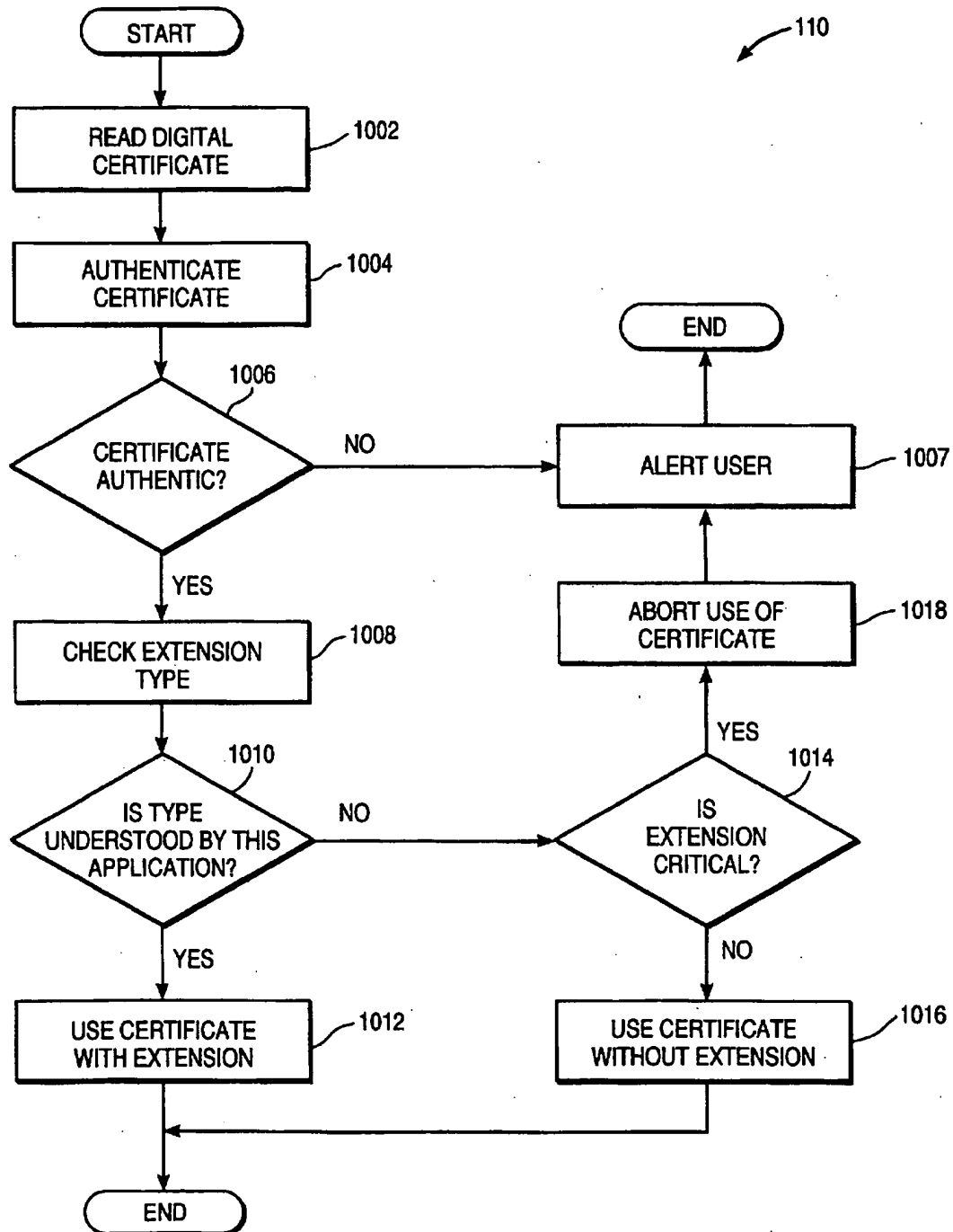
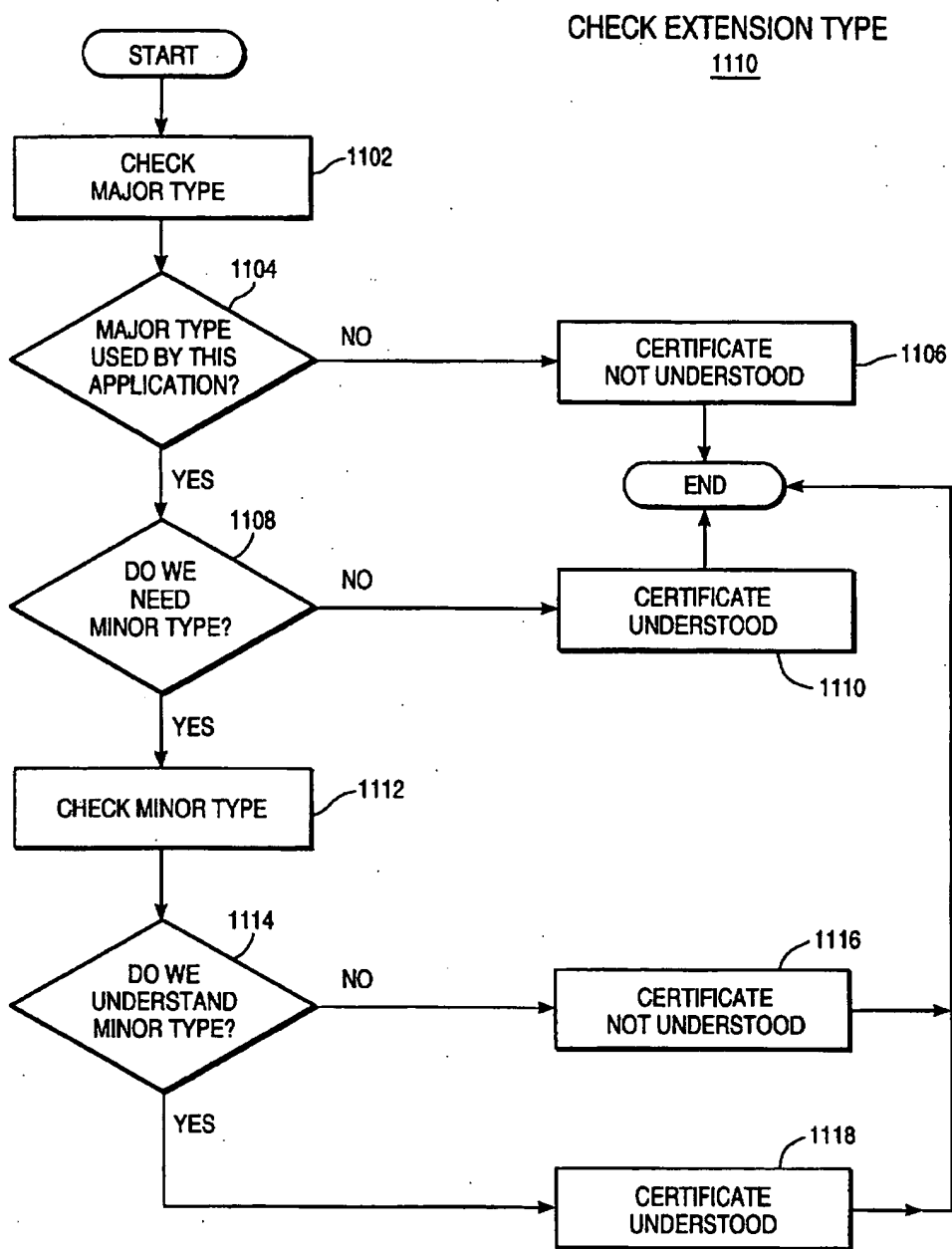
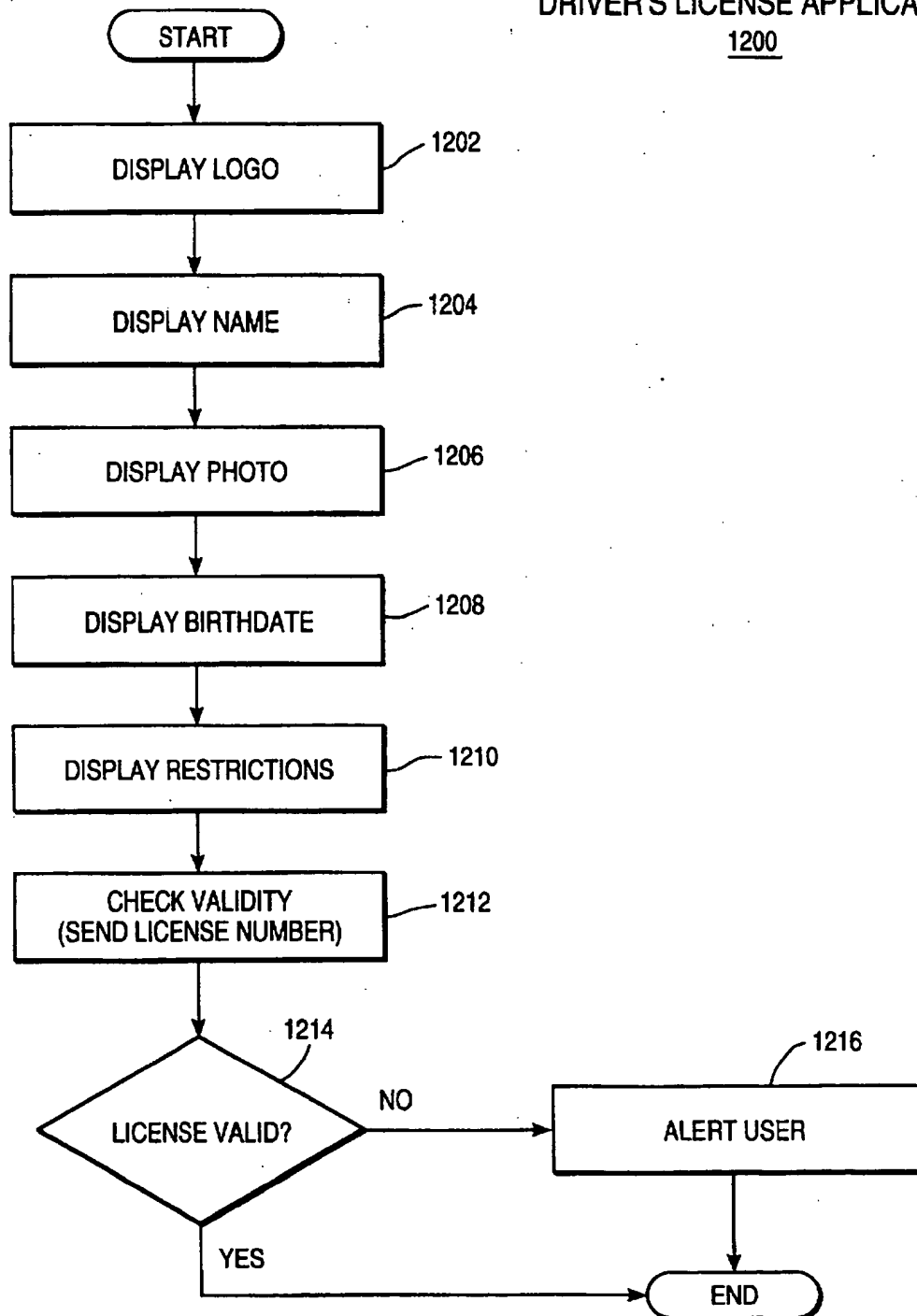
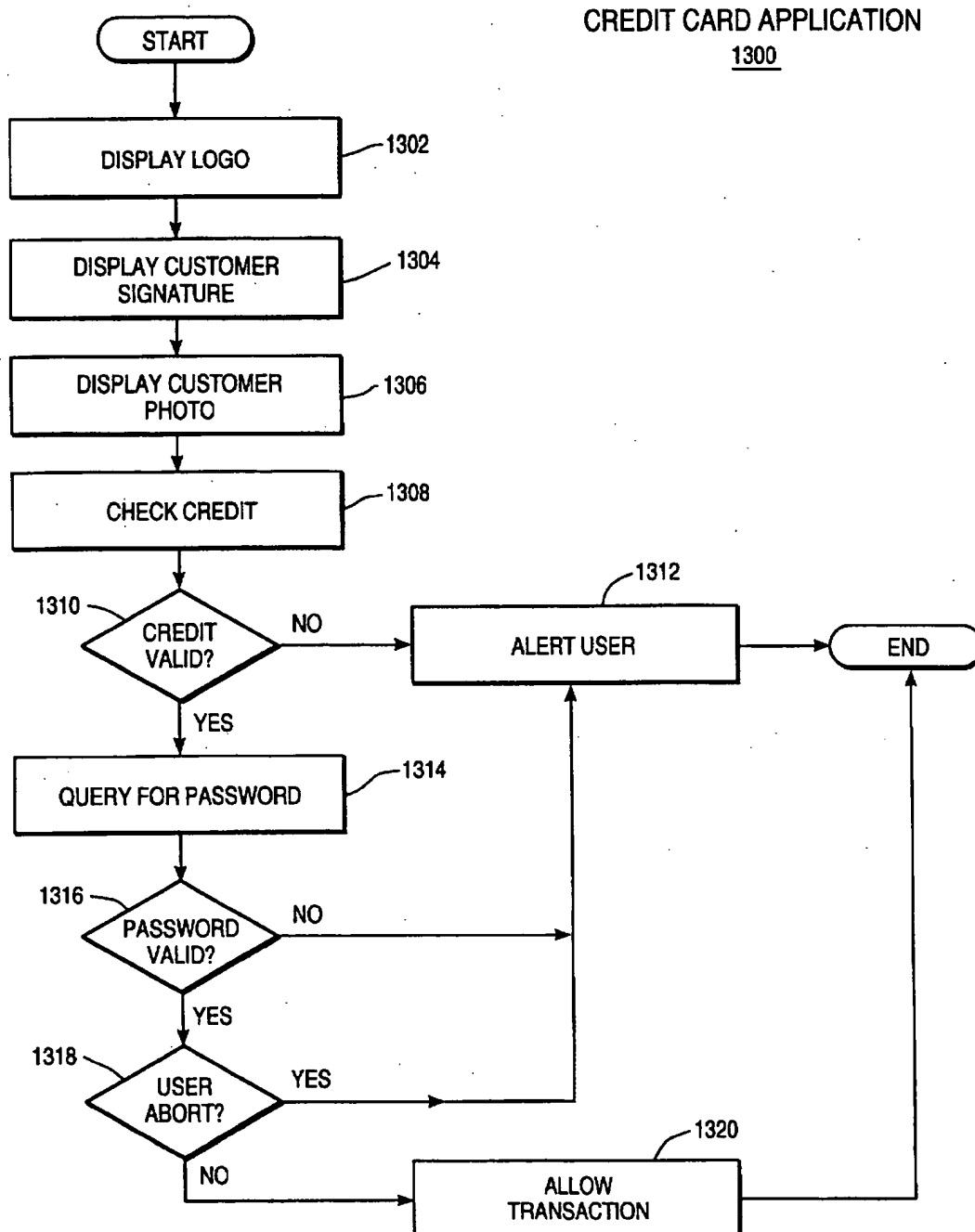


FIG. 9

**FIG. 10**

**FIG. 11**

DRIVER'S LICENSE APPLICATION
1200**FIG. 12**

**FIG. 13**

DIGITAL CERTIFICATES CONTAINING MULTIMEDIA DATA EXTENSIONS

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to information storage and authentication thereof. Specifically, the present invention relates to a method and apparatus for storing multi-media information in digital certificates, for example, those conforming to recommendation X.509 for authentication and security of directory services.

2. Background Information

As electronic resources proliferate, corresponding increases in the demands placed upon such resources for applications such as electronic commerce also will increase. Electronic commerce requires the authentication of users and other data prior to the performance of transactions. That is, they require that a level of trust be established prior to the performance of transactions. Currently, some methods are lacking in the establishment and maintenance of such trust.

Some prior art solutions for the establishment and maintenance of a level of trust are in existence in the prior art. One of these includes the CCITT Recommendation X.509: The Directory—Authentication Framework (1988). This standard sets forth a protocol wherein certain data are contained in a "digital certificate" which allows the authentication of a user prior to allowing access to a directory. A variety of models are set forth in this standard; however, certain minimum information, such as a distinguished name, validity date range, and accompanying digital signature, which is used to sign the certificate, are used to authenticate users prior to access to directories being granted.

The digital certificate typically assumes that certain levels of trust have already been established from higher levels in a directory hierarchy known as a certification path. A certification path need not be hierarchical, but typically is. In addition, the digital certificate described in Recommendation X.509 has been amended to specify "extensions" which may be used for stronger authentication. See, Draft Technical Corrigenda 2 and 3 to Recommendation X.509 IISO/IEC 9594-8. These specify extensions which may be included in digital certificates without modifying the ASN.1 type certificate specified above. No provision has been made in this standard or others of which Applicant is aware in the prior art which sets forth an authentication framework for data by itself, which also includes identifying information, such as that provided in the X.509 standards, for electronic commerce and/or identification, which incorporates many of the modern data formats. These data formats include, but are not limited to, audio, video, or executable program information. Thus, what is required is an authentication framework which allows the transmission of a variety of data types, but yet, allows authentication of such data for various applications, such as modern forms of electronic commerce.

Thus, the prior art of multimedia storage and retrieval suffers from several deficiencies.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method and apparatus of communicating information comprising providing a datum which includes a digital certificate containing data. The digital certificate including an extension which includes: a first identifier which specifies a major classification of the data; a second identifier which specifies a minor classification of the data; and data in a format according to the major classification and the minor

classification, the data indicating an owner of the datum and a use for which the datum is intended. The certificate allows authentication of the certificate itself and the data contained therein, and the data contained in the certificate can include information allowing verification of the identity of the holder of the certificate.

The data includes a first portion which is in a first format according to the major classification. The data includes a second portion which is in a second format according to the minor classification. The major classification specifies a basic use of the certificate. The minor classification specifies a specific type of the certificate.

The basic use of the certificate may include identification or payment by a credit account. The data can include a logo, a signature of a holder of the certificate, a picture, sound, or video. The data can also include biometric information allowing stronger authentication that the holder of the certificate is the person to whom it was issued. The biometric information can include a fingerprint, retinal scan, hand geometry information.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The present invention is illustrated by way of example and not limitation in the figures of the accompanying in which like references indicate like elements and in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates the flow of a certificate containing multimedia extensions from a certificate medium to a transaction system for authentication and use.

FIG. 2 shows a system in which embodiments of the present invention may be implemented.

FIG. 3 shows the format of an extended X.509 digital certificate.

FIG. 4 shows a more detailed view of an extended X.509 digital certificate.

FIG. 5 shows the format of extension fields in an X.509 digital certificate.

FIG. 6 shows a template extension for storing multimedia extensions in embodiments of the present invention.

FIG. 7 shows an example of an identification template extension.

FIG. 8 shows a second example of an identification template extension.

FIG. 9 shows an example of a credit card template extension.

FIG. 10 shows a process which is used for authenticating and using certificates containing multimedia extensions.

FIG. 11 shows the details of a process which checks the extension types of a digital certificate.

FIG. 12 shows the details of a process which uses an extended digital certificate for an identification application.

FIG. 13 shows the details of a process which uses an extended digital certificate for a credit card payment application.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Implemented embodiments of the present invention include a system which includes multimedia data in digital certificates. Although the present invention will be described with reference to certain specific embodiments thereof, including data structures, processes, etc. . . . , it can be appreciated by one skilled in the art that these specific details are disclosed herein are for a complete understanding of the present invention, and do not limit its scope. It can be

appreciated by one skilled in the art that many departures and other modifications of the implemented embodiments of the present invention may be performed by one skilled in the art. This invention can be practiced without these specific details.

FIG. 1 illustrates the use of a digital certificate. A medium 120 provides a digital certificate 125 with extensions to a transaction system 100. Medium 120 may be any device in which a certificate may be stored, according to the application. For example, this medium may include such as magnetic tape, disk drive on a computer system, credit card "on-a-chip", or other medium for storing information. Different media may be used according to whether a transaction is performed on-line, via the use of a certificate at a point-of-sale system, or for other application, such as identification, such as a driver's license or passport. Transaction system 100 receives the digital certificate, and a certificate application 110 (which is resident in memory of transaction system 100 during runtime) processes the certificate to determine authenticity and perform the transaction, according to the application's requirements. Receipt of the digital certificate may be accomplished via a certificate input device, or over a communication medium, for example, telecommunication channels. The digital certificate 125 contains a signature which guarantees the authenticity of the data contained in the certificate. Once authenticated, the application can use the data contained in the certificate according to the transaction being performed. This transaction may include verification (e.g. visual or biometric verification) of a holder of a certificate to confirm that the holder is the person to whom the certificate was issued.

FIG. 2 shows one embodiment of a transaction system 100. 100 comprises a bus or other communication means 201 for communicating information, and a processing means 202 coupled with bus 201 for processing information. System 100 further comprises a random access memory (RAM) or other volatile storage device 204 (referred to as main memory), coupled to bus 201 for storing information and instructions to be executed by processor 202. Main memory 204 also may be used for storing temporary variables or other intermediate information during execution of instructions by processor 202. System 100 also comprises a read only memory (ROM) and/or other static storage device 206 coupled to bus 201 for storing static information and instructions for processor 202, and a data storage device 207 such as a magnetic disk or optical disk and its corresponding disk drive. Data storage device 207 is coupled to bus 201 for storing information and instructions. System 100 may further be coupled to a display device 221, such as a cathode ray tube (CRT) or liquid crystal display (LCD) coupled to bus 201 for displaying information to a computer user. An alphanumeric input device 222, including a alphanumeric and other keys, may also be coupled to bus 201 for communicating information and command selections to processor 202. An additional user input device is cursor control 223, such as a mouse, trackball, stylus, or cursor direction keys, coupled to bus 201 for communicating direction information and command selections to processor 202, and for controlling cursor movement on display 221.

In implemented embodiments, another device which may be coupled to bus 201 includes a serial interface 224. This may be coupled to a certificate input device 226 which can automatically input a certificate such as 125. This type of device may include a magnetic reader, disk drive, card slot or other type of automatic certificate input device.

System 100 may also include a communication device 225 which comprises a means for communicating with other

devices. This communication device may also include a means for communicating with other nodes in a network or across telephone lines. In implemented embodiments, this may include a MODulator/DEModulator (MODEM) for communication between a first system, for example, that providing a digital certificate, and system 100.

System 100 may also include a biometric input device 227 which comprises a means for inputting biometric information (e.g. a fingerprint or retina scan) from a holder of a certificate into system 100. This may allow verification that the holder of the certificate is the person to whom it was issued. Note, also, that any or all of the components of the illustrated system 100 and associated hardware may be used in various embodiments, however, it can be appreciated that any configuration of the system that includes a processor 202 may be used for various purposes according to the particular implementation.

In one embodiment of a transaction system 100, system 100 may be one of the IBM AT-compatible type personal computers such as the Gateway 2000 brand personal computer manufactured by Gateway Computer Systems. Processor 202 may be one of the Pentium® brand microprocessors available from Intel Corporation of Santa Clara, Calif. (Pentium and Intel are trademarks of Intel Corporation).

Note that the following discussion of various embodiments discussed herein will refer specifically to a series of routines which are generated in a high-level programming language (e.g., the C or C++ language) and compiled, linked, and then run as object code in system 100 during run-time. It can be appreciated by one skilled in the art, however, that the following methods and apparatus may be implemented in special purpose hardware devices, such as discrete logic devices, large scale integrated circuits (LSI's), application-specific integrated circuits (ASIC's), or other specialized hardware. The description here has equal application to apparatus having similar function.

An extended digital certificate 125 is shown in FIG. 3. An extended digital certificate, which includes the multimedia extensions to be described here, conforms to the X.509 standard as set forth above. Extended certificate 125 includes extended certificate information 300 and a digital signature 302. Signature 302 is a digital signature which is formed by performing a hash function of the extended certificate information 300 and encrypting the result of that hash function. Any type of hash function which generates a unique value representing the data may be used, and the specific algorithm used to form the unique value can be identified in the extended information, for example, as set forth below.

A detail of extended information 300 is shown in FIG. 4. Extended information 300 conforms to Recommendation X.509, however, it contains multimedia information (images, video, sound, and/or executable programs) in field 416. The signature 302 shown in FIG. 3 is thus a signature not only of the standard authentication information contained in fields 402-414, but also of field 416 containing multimedia data. Thus, the authentication information is used for authenticating multimedia information instead of providing access to directory services, as in the prior art Recommendation X.509, and as modified by Cordgenda 2 and 3. Thus, although the multimedia extension(s), if any, contained in field 416 may provide stronger authentication of the certificate 125 for directory services than the original X.509 standard, field 416 may be used for any purposes, according to an application's requirements, for example, for use of a credit card for payment during a transaction.

The remaining fields 402-414 correspond with those set forth in Recommendation X.509. Field 402 specifies the version of the certificate, and field 404 is a unique serial number for the certificate. Field 406 specifies a signature algorithm identifier, that is, the hash function encryption algorithm used for forming the digital signature, and a size of the signature. The name field 408 includes a distinguished name that specifies the issuer of the certificate (e.g. a credit card company, company issuing an employee identification badge, or a state motor vehicle agency issuing a driver's license). In implemented embodiments of the present invention, for an identification template certificate, the name would include the name, address, social security number, etc. . . . of a person being identified by the certificate. Sufficient information must be present to specifically identify the owner of the certificate.

Validity field 410 includes a date range in which the certificate is valid. This is also used for authentication purposes. If the certificate is examined outside of this date range, it is invalid (e.g. an expired driver's license, passport or credit card). The subject field 412 contains a distinguished name which defines the subject's name that differentiates him from other owners (e.g. other credit card holders). Under Recommendation X.509, the field contains the directory name of the directory for which access is desired. In implemented embodiments, it is much broader. The last field 414 is the public key information field which identifies and contains the public key of the encryption algorithm used to sign the certificate. The remainder 416 of the certificate is the data which is contained within the certificate.

Recommendation X.509 is currently lacking in facilities for identification of the owner of a certificate, as well as for its intended use. Implemented embodiments of the present invention address these shortcomings by architecting extensions to the current standard in the area of identification and template types. These specific definitions follow.

CERTIFICATE EXTENSIONS

Several new certificate extensions are set forth in implemented embodiments to allow for more widespread use of certificates. These extensions fall into two categories: Extensions used for identification purposes, and miscellaneous extensions which can be used to modify the use of the certificate in ways which have not currently been discovered. The format for all certificate extensions currently follows that found in the X.509 Corrigenda 2 and 3, and Amendment 1.

A detail of an extension field 500 which is a format used by each of the extension(s) in field 416 is shown in FIG. 5. The certificates used in implemented embodiments of the present invention include one or more extensions of the format 500 shown in FIG. 5 in field 416. The extension(s) in field 416, if any, conform to the X.509 Corrigenda 2 and 3. Each extension includes an identifier field 502 which contains a unique value identifying the type of extension contained in the extension data field 506. A criticality flag 504 indicates whether the application reading the certificate must be able read the extension, otherwise, the certificate fails the authentication check performed by the certificate application process 110. The extension data then follows the criticality flag in field 506. The extension data is DER (Distinguished Encoding Rules) encoded. The data includes a length field followed by the octets which make up the encoded data.

Pseudocode representing an extension is as follows:

```

Extensions ::= SEQUENCE OF Extension
Extensions ::= SEQUENCE
{
    extId EXTENSION.&id({Extension}),
    critical BOOLEAN DEFAULT FALSE,
    extn Value OCTET STRING // DER encoding of data
                                value
}
EXTENSION ::= CLASS
{
    &id OBJECT IDENTIFIER UNIQUE,
    &extnType
}
WITH SYNTAX
{
    SYNTAX &extnType
    IDENTIFIED BY &id
}
  
```

IDENTIFICATION EXTENSIONS

The following identification extensions are non-critical extensions.

Logo Extension

The logo extension defines a bitmap image which is used for brand identification. One example of the use of this extension would be for a credit card company such as VISA or MasterCard, to have their logo stored in this extension for display when the certificate is displayed. It has the following syntax:

```

logo EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-cc 30 }
}
Image Syntax ::= SEQUENCE
{
    algorithm AlgorithmIdentifier, // type of image
    imageData ImageData // binary data for image
}
  
```

Signature Extension

The signature extension represents a binary-encoded facsimile of a handwritten signature. It may be a scanned copy of a written signature, or the signature may be made on a much sensitive-pad and encoded directly. Regardless, the purpose of this extension is to display the signature in a certificate and compare it with a hand-written signature to verify identity. The syntax uses the same image data as the logo extension as follows:

```

signature EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-cc 31 }
}
  
```

Picture Extension

This extension is meant to contain a picture of the owner of the certificate. It consists of a bitmap image in some standard format. It could be used for a picture of an owner of a certificate for an identification or credit card certificate. It is constructed in the same fashion as the logo and signature extensions:

```

picture EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 32 }
}

```

Sound Extension

This extension will allow a certificate to contain an audio clip. It may be used for identification of the owner's voice. It contains an audio clip (e.g., WAV) in some standard binary format. The format for this extension is as follows:

```

audio EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 33 }
}
AudioSyntax ::= SEQUENCE
{
    algorithm AlgorithmIdentifier, // type of image
    audioData AudioData // binary data for sound clip
}
AudioData ::= OCTET STRING

```

Video Extension

This extension will allow a certificate to contain a video clip. It may be used for identification of the owners appearance or other information which needs to be stated by the owner. It contains a video clip in some standard binary format. The format for this extension is as follows:

```

video EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX VideoSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 34 }
}
VideoSyntax ::= SEQUENCE
{
    algorithm AlgorithmIdentifier, //type of clip
    videoData VideoData //binary data for video clip
}
VideoData ::= OCTET STRING

```

If a certificate contains both an audio and video extension, they are assumed to be synchronized in time; that is, the algorithms used to create both of them must be able to be synchronized if both the audio and video are started at the same time.

Biometric Extensions

This extension can represent some biometric input which is used for identification purposes. The goal of these formats is to verify that the user of the certificate is really who they say they are. The data stored with the certificate would be compared with that input via some biometric device to validate the user's identity. One possible use of this extension is in security access cards where the user of the card must validate themselves in order to gain entry into high-security building or room.

Biometric devices come in several forms, each of which represents data in one or more different binary formats. Following is a list of the more popular biometric formats and the type of extension(s) they require. An important consideration regarding biometric devices is that the input data from the user can change over time. That is, a person's fingerprint, hand print, or voice can change over time, eventually rendering the certificate invalid.

Fingerprint

Fingerprints are stored in one of three different formats: Image, language, and index plot. Image format is simply a bitmap image which must be visually compared to that stored in a certificate. This data will be stored in the following extension:

```

fingerprintImage EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 35 }
}

```

The language format is an ASCII representation of the fingerprint after filtering the fingerprint image. This value can then be compared to that stored in the certificate. This data will be stored in the following extension format:

```

fingerprintLanguage EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX FingerprintLanguageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 36 }
}
FingerprintLanguageSyntax ::= IA5String

```

The last format for storage of fingerprints is via an index plot of the fingerprint. This plot is also a bitmap representing the print, but only is concerned about certain aspects inherent in the print. This extension is also stored as an image:

```

fingerprintIndexPlot EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 37 }
}

```

Retina Scan

Retina scans create a bit vector representing the location of blood vessels in the retina of the eye. This relatively short vector generated by a scanning device can be compared to that stored in a certificate for identification purposes. Since the result is simply a bitmap, the following extension syntax is used:

```

retinaScan EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 38 }
}

```

Voice Print

Voice prints are usually stored as audio files and are processed to compare two samples. Thus the audio extension format will be used:

```

voicePrint EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX AudioSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id-ce 39 }
}

```

Hand Geometry

Geometry of the hand is usually stored in an image format. The following extension is defined:

```

handGeometry EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ImageSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id=ce 40 }
}

```

Dynamic Signature

Dynamic Signature data is stored as accelerations sampled during the actual writing of user's signature. This data will be sorted in some binary format for later comparison with that received from the biometric device. It is unclear what exact format this data will take.

MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS

Account Number Extension

This extension is used to store an account number in a certificate. It may not always be possible to use the serial number to store the account number in the case of revocation and later reinstatement, where the same account number would be used. Hence the serial number cannot be used in this case as serial numbers must be globally unique. The syntax for this extension is as follows:

```

accountNumber EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX AccountNumberSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id=ce 41 }
}
Account Number Syntax ::= INTEGER

```

Executable Code Extension

This extension is reserved for use by applications to execute trusted code contained in the certificate. The extension is simply a sequence of bytes which will be interpreted by the application as an executable. The format is as follows:

```

executableCode EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX ExecutableCodeSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id=ce 41 }
}
ExecutableCodeSyntax ::= OCTET STRING

```

TEMPLATE EXTENSIONS

A template extension is used to determine which template the certificate follows, that is, which extensions are to be found in the extensions field in a certificate. This extension is located at a well-known place in the extension list (e.g. the first extension) and gives insight into what the certificate is used for and perhaps how to display the certificate to the user. The template types are discussed in detail below. The syntax for this extension is as follows:

```

templateExtension EXTENSION ::=
{
    SYNTAX TemplateSyntax
    IDENTIFIED BY { id=ce 41 }
}
Template Syntax ::= SEQUENCE

```

-continued

```

{
    major INTEGER, // major number of template
    minor INTEGER // template minor number
}

```

An illustration of a template extension 600 is shown in FIG. 6. A template identifier field 602 contains a unique value identifying the extension as a template extension. The template extension is critical, that is, if the application cannot interpret the template, it cannot use the certificate for any purpose other than as a template for the purposes specified in the major and minor type fields 606 and 608. The criticality flag in field 604 is set by default to "yes", however, it may be set to "no" in some implementations. The template identifier determines which template (if any) the certificate follows.

The template extension is made up of a major and minor type specified in fields 606 and 608. The major type contained in field 606 represents the basic use of the certificate, for example, whether it is used for identification or a credit card. The minor type contained in field 608 represents the exact type of data the certificate stores. For example, a certificate could have the major type of identification and the minor type of driver's license. The major type specifies a certain set of required multimedia extensions (either implicitly or explicitly through some undefined mechanism) which must be used to verify the holder of the certificate. Verification of the holder of the certificate can be performed using any of the multimedia extensions set forth above.

The template extension is placed in a well-defined place in the certificate, in this embodiment, as the first extension in the extensions portion of the extended X.509 certificate. Implicitly, the major and minor type specify the number and types of fields which follow in the extension, and each extension includes an identifier which identifies the specific extension. Thus, required major multimedia extensions 610 follows the specification of the minor type, and required minor multimedia extensions 612 follows the required major multimedia extensions 608. Required major multimedia extensions 610 include data common to all certificates of the major type, and required minor multimedia extensions include data specific to the specified minor type. Lastly, format 600 includes an "other extensions" field 614 which are other extensions used in the certificate which are not of the required major or minor types.

Following is a list of defined major and minor template types in implemented embodiments of the present invention and a description of each.

IDENTIFICATION TEMPLATE TYPE

This major type of template includes one or more of the identification certificate extensions defined above. This class of template includes the minor types of applications as set forth in Table 1.

TABLE I

Minor Type	Extensions and Other Data Required
driver's license	state logo, picture, birth date, height, weight, sex, restrictions, license number
birth certificate	hospital logo, parents' names, birth date, hospital name, footprint
social security card	SS logo, SS number
library card	library logo, account number

TABLE I-continued

Minor Type	Extensions and Other Data Required
frequent flier card	airline logo, account number, signature of user
passport	country logo, picture
corporate id badge	corporate logo, id number, picture, audio, video
building access card	logo
medical insurance or prescription card	logo, account/group number

As is apparent in the above-examples, the common element for each of the identification extensions is the logo of the issuing authority. Thus, required major multimedia extensions for such an extended certificate would include the logo in the required major multimedia extensions field.

An example of an identification template is shown as 700 in FIG. 7. This data will be contained in the extension data field 506 of a template extension. Each of the data fields will have an associated identifier and criticality flag, as set forth above. In this embodiment, the major type contained in field 702 will identify the template as type identification. The minor type, in this instance, contained in field 704, will identify the template as being of type "California driver's license." Thus, the basic use of the template is identification, and the specific instance of identification is a California driver's license.

A logo (the logo of the state—the issuing authority) follows in field 706, for the required major multimedia extensions of this identification template. Subsequent fields in the certificate, in this example, are required minor multimedia extensions. These include: a image of the licensed driver in field 708; a birth date of the driver in field 710; height, weight and sex of the driver in fields 712, 714, and 716; license restrictions contained in field 718; and a license number in field 720. Thus, when authentication of the certificate takes place, the hash function is performed not only on the unextended portion X.509 portion of the certificate, but also, on extended data 700 shown in FIG. 7. A certificate thus contains data such as 700 which not only provides stronger (perhaps visual or other manual) authentication of the holder of the certificate, but also, provides a container for data which is self-authenticating. That is, it not only allows access checking of directories and associated directory services, but also, provides stand-alone features not connected with any such prior art techniques.

A second example of an identification template is shown as 800 in FIG. 8. This extension will be contained in the extension data field 506 of a template extension. The minor type, in this example, contained in field 804, will identify the template as being of type "Birth Certificate." The hospital logo follows in field 806, for the required major multimedia extensions of this identification certificate. The following fields in the extension field are for required minor multimedia extensions. These include: the parent's names in field 808; a birth date of the child in field 810; the hospital name in field 812; a image of the footprint of the infant in field 814; and a signature of the doctor in field 816.

Credit Card Template Type

This type of certificate template includes some identification portions as well as storage for the credit card number itself. An example of this is illustrated as 900 in FIG. 9. The major type specified in field 902 is credit card, and the minor type contained in field 904, in this example, is "Citibank Visa." Fields 906-912 comprise the required major multi-

media extensions fields and specify the credit card number, an image of the user's signature, the issuer's name, and the issuer's logo. The issuer's logo preserves the brand identity associated with the credit card (e.g. Citibank Visa). Other information may also be associated with the certificate, such as credit limit, etc. . . . according to implementation. Minor fields may include those as illustrated in fields 914-920, such as a user's photo, user's password (for stronger authentication), a "member since" field, and an image of the card itself. In alternative implementations, it may also contain a picture of the user and an audio or video clip.

THE CERTIFICATE APPLICATION

A flow of a process of a certificate application 110, which is resident in computer memory during system runtime in a transaction system (e.g. a point-of-sale system), is illustrated in FIG. 10. The certificate is read at step 1002. This may be performed in any number of manners, including, but not limited to, receipt of the certificate over a communication link, reading of the certificate off magnetic media on a credit/identification card, etc. . . . Authentication of the certificate is then performed at step 1004. This is performed using the specified hash algorithm of the data in the certificate, decryption technique using the public key of the issuer, and comparing the result against the supplied signature. If the certificate is not authentic, as detected at step 1006, then process 110 proceeds to step 1007, wherein a user may be alerted and the process aborts.

If the certificate is authentic, then process 110 proceeds to step 1008, wherein the extension type is checked. If the examined extension type is not understood by the application program, then the criticality flag is checked at step 1014. If the extension is critical, then the use of the certificate is aborted at step 1018, and the user can be alerted at step 1007, wherein the process ends. If the certificate extension is not critical (e.g. a template extension) then the certificate can be used, if desired by the application, without the extension(s), if any at step 1016. If the extension is understood by the application, as detected at step 1010, then it can be used at step 1012 with the extension(s). In either event, the process then is complete.

In the event of an extension type which is one of the simple multimedia data types illustrated and discussed above, the application simply checks the type and determines whether it is supported, and if so, can use the extension. If not, the DER length field can be examined, and the extension field(s) can be skipped over, and not used by the application, according to implementation. In the event of a template type, both the major and minor types can be examined, and if either or both are supported and required by the application, it can be used. The details of this are shown in FIG. 11.

Process 1100 shows the details of checking a template's major and minor type. First, at step 1102, the major type is checked. If it is not supported by this application, as detected at step 1104, then, at step 1106, it can be indicated that the certificate is not understood, and the process is complete. If the major type is understood by the application (e.g. an identification type), then it is determined whether the minor type is required at step 1108. For example, for a simple identification procedure with authentication, the validity of the certificate may simply be required to be checked. This would be similar to the standard X.509 authentication procedure. If not, then the certificate is indicated as understood at step 1110, and the process is complete.

Step 1112 checks the minor type in the event that the minor type is required. If understood, as detected at step

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1114, then the certificate is indicated as being understood at step 1118, and the process is complete. If not, then the certificate is indicated as not being understood at step 1116, and the process is complete.

FIGS. 12 and 13 illustrate examples of the use of digital certificates with multimedia extensions, as set forth at steps 1012 and 1016. These examples illustrate the processes which may be performed for the checking of the validity of a driver's license, and a credit card for the performance of a transaction, respectively. Process 1200 may be an identification process used with a driver's license, for example. Once authentication of the license via examination of the certificate has taken place, the remaining information contained in the major and minor fields may be displayed to the user. These may include the display of the state logo at step 1202, display of the driver's name at step 1204, the photo of the driver at step 1206, the birth date at step 1208, and any restrictions of the driver at step 1210. This can allow verification of the identity of the holder of the certificate. The validity of the license may also be checked at step 1212, for example, by querying a remote system. If the license is not valid, the user is alerted at step 1216. If it is valid, unless other actions are required to be performed (in which case process 1200 will have additional steps), process 1200 is complete.

Process 1300 shows an example of a credit card transaction application. Step 1302 displays the logo from the certificate. This ensures brand identity, for example, for on-line and point-of-sale transactions wherein no physical "card" or medium is handled by a user. Subsequent thereto, the customer signature can be displayed at step 1304, for verification purposes, and the customer photo, if any, can be displayed at step 1306. Credit of the account is then verified at step 1308, using any known technique, and if sufficient credit does not exist as detected at step 1310, the user is alerted at step 1312. The process is then complete.

In the event of the requirement of verification of the holder of the credit card certificate, a password may be queried for at step 1314, and if the password is not valid, as detected at step 1316, the user can be alerted at step 1312. If the password is valid, a user abort test is performed at step 1318 and if no abort is detected, the transaction is allowed to proceed, step 1320. In any event, the process is complete. Other steps may be performed within the credit card transaction application process 1300, and steps illustrated may be omitted, according to the specific application, the specific minor type of the credit card, etc. . . .

Thus, in conclusion, a method and apparatus for formatting and using digital certificates containing extensions with multimedia data has been described. The use of certificates, as described above, as containers for data of various multimedia types is especially useful. This is particularly so for verification methods for commercial transactions, such as visual, password, and biometric verification of holders of such certificates. Although the present invention has been described with reference to certain specific embodiments thereof, the present invention should be construed as limited by the appended claims which follow.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of communicating information comprising providing a datum which includes a digital certificate containing data, said digital certificate including an extension which includes:

- a. a first identifier which specifies a first classification of said data, the first classification specifies a basic use of said digital certificate;

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- b. a second identifier which specifies a second classification of said data, the second classification specifies a specific type of said digital certificate; and

- c. said data in a format according to said first classification and said second classification, said data indicating an owner of said datum and a use for which said datum is intended.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a first portion which is in a first format according to said first classification.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said data includes a second portion which is in a second format according to said second classification.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said basic use of said digital certificate includes identification.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said basic use of said digital certificate includes payment by a credit account.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said basic use of said digital certificate includes attaching a plurality of data to said certificate.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a logo.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a signature.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes a picture.

10. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes sound.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes video.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein said data includes biometric information.

13. The method of claim 12 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

14. The method of claim 12 wherein said biometric information includes a retinal scan.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said biometric information includes hand geometry information.

16. The method of claim 12 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

17. A multimedia digital certificate system comprising:

- a. a first circuit for creating a digital certificate which provides stand-alone authentication, said digital certificate including a certificate authentication field encoded with a private key; and

- b. a second circuit for extending said digital certificate to include an extension, said extension including multimedia data.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said multimedia data includes identification information.

19. The system of claim 17 wherein said multimedia data includes certificate revocation information.

20. The system of claim 17 wherein said extension further includes length information indicating the length of said multimedia data.

21. The system of claim 17 wherein said extension includes type information indicating the type of said multimedia data.

22. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes a logo.

23. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes a signature.

24. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes a picture.

25. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes sound.

26. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes video.

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27. The system of claim 18 wherein said identification information includes biometric information.

28. The system of claim 27 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

29. The system of claim 27 wherein said biometric information includes a retinal scan.

30. The system of claim 27 wherein said biometric information includes hand geometry information.

31. The system of claim 27 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

32. An apparatus for communicating information comprising a circuit for processing a datum which includes a digital certificate containing data, said digital certificate including an extension which includes:

- a. a first identifier which specifies a first classification of said data, the first classification specifies a basic use of said certificate;
- b. a second identifier which specifies a second classification of said data, the second classification specifies a specific type of said certificate; and
- c. said data in a format according to said first classification and said second classification, said data indicating an owner of said datum and a use for which said datum is intended.

33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes a first portion which is in a first format according to said first classification.

34. The apparatus of claim 33 wherein said data includes a second portion which is in a second format according to said second classification.

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35. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said basic use of said certificate includes identification.

36. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said basic use of said certificate includes payment by a credit account.

37. The method of claim 32 wherein said basic use of said certificate includes attaching a plurality of data to said certificate.

38. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes a logo.

39. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes a signature.

40. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes a picture.

41. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes sound.

42. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes video.

43. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein said data includes biometric information.

44. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

45. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said biometric information includes a retinal scan.

46. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said biometric information includes hand geometry information.

47. The apparatus of claim 43 wherein said biometric information includes a fingerprint.

* * * * *

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 5,712,914
DATED : January 27, 1998
INVENTOR(S) : Aucsmith et al.

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In column 14 at line 60 delete "where to" and insert --wherein--

Signed and Sealed this
Thirteenth Day of October 1998

Attest:



BRUCE LEHMAN

Attesting Officer

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks